WEEKLY INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

НАШ ДОМ

19.01.2014

Euro Renovation of Belarus:
For the Better Future!

The purpose of The Civil Campaign Our House is that all Belarusians become owners of our common home Belarus. All campaigns of Our House are aimed at guaranteeing best performance of state authorities, ensuring transparency in public budgeting for everybody, impacting processes inside Belarus and creating equal opportunities for all people.

The Civil Campaign Our House has been registered in the Czech Republic as The International Center of Civil Initiatives Our House.

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IS SON RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS MOTHER?

OPEN LETTER

By Olga Karatch, the leader of the Civil Campaign «Our Home»

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OPEN LETTER

By Olga Karatch, the leader of the Civil Campaign «Our Home»

To: The Presidential Administration of the Republic of Belarus
The Administration of the Oktiabrskiy District of the city of Vitebsk
The Inspectorate for Minors' Matters of the
OVD (Interior Division) of the Oktiabrskiy District of the city of Vitebsk
From: Olga Evegenievna Karatch

Esteemed Alexander Grigorievich,

I value very highly you deep concern and warm care about my small child Svyatoslav, as well as the zeal and activeness of you subordinates, who seek to ensure the proper care and supervision over his upbringing and living conditions.

As of today, my son possesses the following:

1) Own mother – 1 person
2) Own father – 1 person
3) Own grandmothers – 2 persons, one of them having 32 years of pedagogical experience
4) Own grandfathers – 2 persons, one of them having 32 years of pedagogical experience
5) Grand-aunts – 7 persons, one of them being a doctor and a ward head
6) Grand-uncles – 6 persons, including some with medical experience
7) Aunts – 7 persons, including professionals with pedagogic and medical experience
8) Uncles – 9 persons

In the near future, the baby will add:

1) Godmother – 1 person
2) Godfather – 1 person

In total, today there are 35 persons, who take active and adequate part in rearing my son Svyatoslav, apart from our numerous friends and capabilities to hire a nurse or a babysitter.
Besides, the home is equipped with numerous domestic appliances and other devices as needed to ensure the comfort nutrition and care about my son (a perambulator, a car seat, a sterilizer, and automatic bottle warmer, a swaddle table, a washing machine, a drier for clothes, an individual kettle for the baby, a vacuum cleaner, a specialized bed, a special bath-tube with a set of lounges, two types of «kangaroo bags», some 20 kilos of children clothes, several packs of a disposable diapers, a stock of children food for a month, the necessary medications, dusting powders, children creams, shampoos and soaps, a special children washing powder, numerous children developing toys, etc.), as well as gas, hot and cold water supplies, and the central heating.

Within the last week, my son was visited by the following persons:

- Visiting nurse – 1 visit
- Doctor from Children Polyclinic – 1 visit
- On duty doctor from Children Polyclinic – 1 visit
- Svyatoslav (the son) visited the Children Polyclinic – 1 visit
- Officials from the tutorship and curatorship body – 1 visit
- Commission for Minors' Matters – 1 visit
- Inspectorate for Minors' Matters – 1 visit
- Division for Education (jointly with school officials) – 1 visit
- Social Protection Division – 1 visit

All these visits suggest that for some reason your subordinates find all the above-listed as insufficient for the happy childhood of my son. It follows from the acts drawn up within this week that any my trip to a drugstore, shop, City Executive Committee, when I leave my baby under the care of loving relatives, is perceived by the Administration of the Oktiabrskiy District as a threat to his life and health.

In this context:
Since I see no reason at a frost of minus 12-15 degrees to take the baby with me; and in view of the threat for the child to stay in state bodies because of virus infections; however, I still have to visit state bodies to document my maternity leave and other documents,

I hereby suggest the following:
To set up a special commission of 7 persons (one official from the Inspectorate for Minors' Matters, the Commission for Minors' Matters, bodies of tutorship and curatorship, department for education, division for social protection, and Deputy of the Vitebsk City Soviet, each, plus one close relative of my son – a grandmother, grandfather, or someone else), to stay with my son, while I visit various state bodies to settle my administrative issues. By the outcomes of each such visit, they draw up an act to be signed by each member of the commission personally; and a copy of the act is issued to each of them.
To compile a special schedule to be approved by the head of the Administration of the Oktiabrskiy District of Vitebsk, according to which the above commission should stay with my son, enabling me to plan such visits. I would be happy like that – 1 full working day, for instance, Wednesday, and three more days, four hours in the working hours, for example, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.. The schedule should cover at least one year.
Since all my relatives are ready to stay with my son free of charge; also because I cannot degrade the material conditions of my son by paying money to the members of the above commission, I expect that the above commission will stay with my son absolutely free of charge, on the voluntary basis. Besides, the above hot concern about the fate of my son on the part of various state bodies, whose officials visited our family within the last week, have persuaded me that all those people came to us exclusively because of their intention to ensure the protection of my son's childhood and proper care.

Should the setting up of the above commission prove impossible for whatever reasons (although I se no such reasons), then shall I perceive the demand, for example, of the Tax Inspectorate of the Oktiabrskiy District, to appear there and give explanations, as a situation that threatens the live and health of my child; and, respectively, ask the Tax Inspectorate to wait for three years, until the end of my maternity leave?

In what way can I document my maternity leave, receive the maternity allowances and buy all I need, if I have no right to leave it for minute or leave the baby with our relatives?

With best regards,
Olga E. Karatch

EUROPEAN-STYLE REPAIRS OF BELARUS

The «European-Style Repairs of Belarus» is a direction aimed to improve the life quality standards in Belarus in different spheres (medical care, education, communal services, etc.) up to the level of European standards.

IN GOMEL, BORDER STONE IS NO LONGER STUMBLING STONE



For the Gomel city authorities, the border stones installed in the very city centre became stumbling stones in the literal sense of the expression. It took six months for the Gomel City Housing and Utilities Service (known as ZhKKh) to react to three appeals lodged by activists of the «Our Home» and the «Novobelitsa» Campaign, accompanied with photos. Now, finally, they have decreased the height of the border stone in the non-regulated crossing near the bus stop «Lenin Square» near the Drama Theatre from 16 cm down to 2.5 cm.

The barrier-free environment for cyclists, disabled persons, parents with strollers and pensioners with their wheeled bags at the pedestrian crossings of one of the major Gomel squares has ceased to be a «painful» and deadlock problem.

Our correspondence has lasted since July 2013 and ended in our victory this January.

The city ZhKKh and the Road Construction-Repair Trust could not – for a long time – decreasing the stone height down to 2.5 cm on their own initiative without a permission of the GAI (traffic police) Department if the Interior Department of the Regional Executive Committee; while the GAI had initially objected to reduction of the height because of possible consequences of traffic accidents, when vehicles could get off the carriageway.

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What is prescribed by the law for the occasion?

The height of the border stones marking the carriageway, where the latter is crossed by pedestrian ways or tracks, sidewalks and cycle tracks, as well as refuge islands and central reserves shall be from 0.025 m to 0.040 m. The border stones shall not have any sloping upper surface (points 5.4.8 and 6.2.11 of the TKP 45-3.03-227-2010, in force since July 1, 2011).

The works to decrease the height of border stones in pedestrian crossings shall be performed in the course of reconstructing or capital repairs of city streets.

Andrei AKSYONOV, «Our Home»
Galina KRAVCHENKO, «For Freedom!»
Photo by Andrei AKSYONOV

SLUTSK: ZHKKH DISRUPTS MEETING WITH TENANTS

We have written before that in December 2013 the tenants of Porch 1 of No. 1 in 14 Partizan Street in the city of Slutsk sent an appeal, with the support of the «Our Home», to the local authorities about the inadequate condition of the house basement and the ventilation system.

Out of three instances, two sent their responses. Deputy Anna Bubich wrote that she had redirected the letter to the Slutsk ZhKKh. The Centre for Hygiene and Epidemiology notified that they had held disinfection and airing of the basement and recommended that the Slutsk ZhKKh revised the sanitary-technical condition of the ventilation systems.

The measures taken by the above Centre gave no results. Faecal smells from the basement are still penetrating into the doorway and wonder over tenants' flats because of the failed ventilation system.

The main addressee – the Communal Unitary Enterprise (CUE) « Slutsk ZhKKh» – gave no written answer to the tenants' collective appeal; however, on January 8 an announcement was placed in all the three porches of the house, inviting tenants to the meeting with the employees of the Housing-Maintenance Service-2 (known as ZhEU) on January 9, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. The house head Lyudmila Kopachenya was informed about the meeting over the telephone.

Ms Kopachenya is a highly responsible and conscientious person; she is very concerned about the disorder and the problems of her house. In the evening, she used the door-phone system to contact all the 108 flats, inviting the tenants to surely come to the above meeting. You can imagine her surprise and rage, when one hour before the appointed time she was called by the secretary of ZhEU-2 and informed about the rescheduling of the meeting for some other date.

By 5:30 p.m., about 50 tenants gathered near the house. Lyudmila Kopachenya announced that ZhEU-2 bosses had rescheduled the meeting for some unidentified date. People were indignant about the disdainful attitude of bureaucrats: «They'd have come to apologize at least!», «They don't regard us as humans, are they?!» – these were the most reserved statements made by the audience.

Half of the tenants (mainly younger ones) dispersed; while the remaining people adopted a plan of further actions. They decided to address the Regional ZhKKh Department in writing. Should they fail to receive an answer from the CUE « Slutsk ZhKKh» (headed by Voronko, N. F.) within a couple of days, they plan to complain to the Prosecutor's Office that the term for reacting to citizens' appeals has been broken. Then, to seek for appointment of Inessa Kleschuk, the Deputy of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus, and of the local Deputy Anna Bubich and ask them for help. Then, they plan to go to court with the aim to force, at last, the ZhKKh workers to put the basement and the ventilation system of their house into due order.

The tenants are full of determination: they want to live in normal civilized conditions..

Tamara BLINOVA, Slutsk

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION: YOU WANT TO ASK A QUESTION – GROUP UP IN THREE

For the residents of the Novobelitsa District of Gomel to see and read answers to their «Frequently Asked Questions» on the official website of the District Administration – http://www.novobel.gov.by/, they have «for at least three times» to send questions «on actual topics» or make telephone calls.



FOR THE FORTH MONTH WITHOUT ACTUAL TOPICS

Activists of the «Our Home» and the «Novobelitsa» Campaign offered the District Administration to improve the work of the sections «All News» and «Frequently Asked Questions» on the official website of the administration. The current information posted therein and having direct attitude to the district is not always complete and timely. The answer to the question: «On the construction of a kindergarten in micro-district 104», posted in the section «Frequently Asked Questions», for at least three months continues to be the latest update of information. The section has not been updated with new answers to citizens' questions.

Every Thursday, the city newspaper «Gomelskie Vedomosti» publishes, in its rubric «You have asked» («Feedback») in page 19, answers of officials from the local executive and administrative bodies, other state agencies and organizations to frequently asked questions received from readers. Citizens of the Novobelitsa District of Gomel exhibit significant activity and regularly ask their questions. For example, only in September-November 2013, the above rubric published nine answers to pressing questions asked by residents of the Novobelitsa District.

ANY QUESTION, BUT «ASKED AT LEAST TRIPLY»

Vasily Zubets, Deputy Head of the District Administration, said that our proposal to place the answers received from the officials of local power bodies and published by the «Gomelskie Vedomosti», also on the official website of the administration, was taken to notice. The rights to manage the website belong to the District Administration. Its specialists define the list of questions the topics and the volume of information posted on the website, with account of the value and topicality; they also monitor the visits to the sections of the website by the users.

The section «Frequently Asked Questions» places the answers to the questions, most frequently asked by resident of the district (asked for at least three times) on the actual topics. Reposting the information published on the pages of the city newspaper «Gomelskie Vedomosti» in the section «You have asked» («Feedback») is deemed unreasonable by the Administration of the Novobelitsa District, since this information has been already printed in mass media and is also reflected in the respective sections of the official websites of the «Gomelskie Vedomosti» and the Gomel City Executive Committee.

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Given the fact that the District Administration has rejected our proposal, we have been posted and are going to do it in the future, all the answers to the questions of the district residents from the newspaper «Gomelskie Vedomosti» on the Internet, in particular, in the open group of the campaign «Novobelitsa» in the social network «VKontakte» – http://vk.com/novobelitca - in our permanent rubric «Novobelitsa residents are asking…».

Andrei AKSYONOV, «Our Home»

Galina KRAVCHENKO, «For Freedom!»